



PRESENTS

# CRY OLD KINGDOM

A LIVE THEATRE PRODUCTION BY JEFF AUGUSTIN



**APRIL 13-30, 2023**

ISLAND CITY STAGE, WILTON MANORS



Funding for this project is provided in part by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council.

**[browardarts.org](http://browardarts.org)**

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This event is supported by Funding Arts Broward, supporting innovative local visual and performing arts in Broward County.

**[fundingartsbroward.org](http://fundingartsbroward.org)**

NEW CITY PLAYERS

*Presents at*

ISLAND CITY STAGE

*Odlenika Joseph, TJ Pursley, and Denzel McCausland in*

# CRY OLD KINGDOM

A regional premiere by **Jeff Augustin**

Directed by **Marlo Rodriguez**

Executive Producers:

**David Christopher & David Munro**

*World Premiere in the 2013 Humana Festival of New American  
Plays at ACTORS THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE.*

# Cast *(in order of appearance)*

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TJ Pursley.....	Henri
Denzel McCausland.....	Edwin
Odlenika Joseph.....	Judith
Harold Petion.....	Radio Voice of Jean Louis
Cloudy Nonome.....	Radio Voice of Francois Duvalier

## **SETTING**

Haiti, 1964

*There will be no intermission.*

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We'd like to acknowledge that this production is taking place on the occupied indigenous lands of the Seminole,

Taino, and Tequesta peoples. It's important that we acknowledge the history and ongoing colonization of where we are sitting right now in South Florida and in our country. It's also important to acknowledge our own place in the story of colonization.

# A Note from the Director

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I am honored to present to you a story about the power of art, the struggle for freedom, and the strength of desire. Based on real events in Haiti, set in a time of revolution, our play follows a group of intertwined individuals who find themselves confronted with difficult choices and the harsh reality of censorship and oppression.

Our characters are passionate and determined people, willing to risk everything for the sake of their dreams. And as the revolution unfolds around them, they find themselves caught up in a world of violence and chaos, where every decision they make has life-or-death consequences.

In New City Players' production of *Cry Old Kingdom*, we hold up a mirror to our own world in 2023, of insurrections, book bans, and unjust legislation.

Raising questions about the role of art in society, and the ways in which censorship and oppression can threaten the very essence of human expression. We hope to shed light on the struggles of those who

seek to create in the face of adversity, and to inspire a sense of empathy and understanding for those who fight for their right to be heard.

This play is a dance with desire – the desire to create, to love, and to live freely. It is a tribute to the resilience of the human spirit, and the Haitian people – a people that cannot and will not be broken.

Our production has been a labor of love by our cast, crew, and NCP ensemble. It is a gift to tell this story, and it takes a village.

We hope you will join us on this journey and let the passion you experience this evening ignite you with inspiration.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marlo Vashti Rodriguez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "M".

Marlo Vashti Rodriguez  
*Director*

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## INSTAGRAM

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## Cast *(in order of appearance)*

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### TJ Pursley

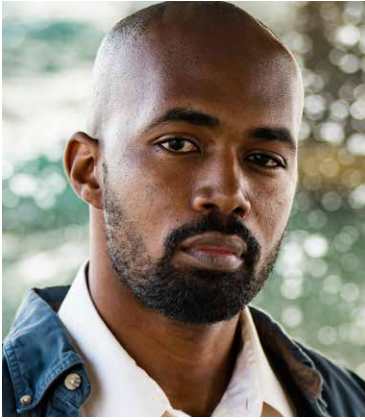
*as Henri*

You may have seen TJ last summer in City Theatre's production of Bob Marley's *Three Little Birds* as Ziggy or most recently in Theatre Lab's New Play Festival as Vaughn in Johnny G. Lloyd's *Love is Hard*

and *Absolutely (probably) Worth It*. You can also find TJ on Spotify and iTunes in Lost Girls Theater Company's audio series, *Where or When*, by Andie Arthur and David J. Loehr. TJ is an Orlando, FL native and recently received his B.F.A. in acting and minor in dance from Florida Atlantic University. There, he enjoyed roles such as Jimmy Early in *Dreamgirls* and Mr. McQueen in *Urinetown!* He sends a special salute to his family in the Black Undergraduate Theatre Collective, his co-founded student organization dedicated to the uplifting of black voices in the arts, and thanks them for their continued support. TJ would like to thank New City Players for allowing him the opportunity to tell such an important story with such rich history right around the corner. He is filled with gratitude to create art with such a welcoming company. He thanks his parents for their unwavering love and support and hopes this piece will touch you in the same profound way that it has touched him.

## Cast *(in order of appearance)*

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### **Denzel McCausland** *as Edwin*

Denzel is an actor born and raised in Miami. He is a Florida Atlantic University graduate with his bachelor's in Theatre. His most recent credits include his portrayal

of "M" in *Lungs*, produced by New City Players, Shepard Mallory from Boca Stage's production of *Ben Butler*, Bass in the production of *Merchants of Venice* performed at the Victory Black Box Theatre and Lincoln in the Main Street Players production of *Topdog/Underdog*. Denzel is truly honored to be working with New City Players once again.

## Cast *(in order of appearance)*

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### **Odlenika Joseph**

*as Judith*

Odlenika is a Haitian-American actress based in Orlando, FL. She graduated from Florida Atlantic University (FAU) with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre in

2019. Cry Old Kingdom marks her professional acting debut, and she is excited to represent her cultural heritage and demonstrate that l'union fait la force.

# Revolutionary Connections

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When asked to provide a six-word summary of *Cry Old Kingdom*, writer Jeff Augustin had the following to say about the haunting journey of his characters:

“Beautiful landscapes don’t  
make revolutions easier.”

As is abundantly clear from the play, revolutions are seldom, if indeed ever easy; and for all their necessity, they often come at quite a high cost. For instance, to escape the shackles of slavery, early Haitian people rose up to revolt against the French colonizers who had oppressed and enslaved them, becoming in 1804 the first independent Black republic in the world.

However, in breaking free, Haiti became subject to social and economic sanctions from other nations threatened by their burgeoning independence, which is one of the reasons the country remains so impoverished today.

In light of such costs, it can sometimes be hard to find the strength to keep fighting those necessary battles; to keep fighting for our rights and for our freedom,

and to keep power in the hands of those who can be trusted to wield it as opposed to those who might use it to oppress. The true story of Papa Doc Duvalier revisited in *Cry Old Kingdom* is a story that demonstrates what happens when too much power becomes concentrated in the hands of one fallible individual; and when, without freedom of expression, an artist loses his vision and a dancer loses her voice.

And though at first glance, the bleak world these characters inhabit may seem a far cry from our own lives and all their liberties, it also wasn't so long ago that the events of January 6th, 2021 briefly seemed to threaten the structures that keep our country's power from unjustly congregating in the hands of one—potentially quite destructive—man.

As Americans, it can be easy for us to take the freedoms we have for granted; but this story is one that may serve as a reminder of the fact that the freedom to speak, create, and rebel are in fact an immense privilege—and thus an immense responsibility. If too many of us neglect that responsibility by failing to protect those freedoms, we may unwittingly open the door to a world where we

see them eliminated—a world where all stories would be gradually replaced by silence, and the human capacity for connection would be forever stifled by a scourge of terror and despair.

Along with serving as an inspiration and opportunity to learn about Haiti's rich cultural landscape, I hope that this play serves as an inspiration for you to reflect on what we can all learn from even the darker aspects of its history; and especially about the necessity of embracing the full power of our voices in order to assure that every voice remains heard.



Ilana Jael  
*Dramaturg*

# Production Staff

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Director.....	Marlo Vashti Rodriguez
Assistant Director/Scenic Designer.....	Elizabeth Price
Stage Manager.....	Brittany Blouin
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Harold Petion
Costume Designer.....	Edverson Raymonvil
Lighting Designer.....	Desiraé Gairala
Sound Designer.....	Ernesto Gonzalez
Makeup Designer.....	Caroline Dopson
Scenic Painter.....	Kathe O'Donnely
Boat Designer & Builder.....	Enrique Pineros
Builders.....	Jordon Armstrong, Jacob Altman
Dramaturg.....	Ilana Jael
Cultural Consultant.....	Évelyne Trouillot
Graphic Designer & Photographer.....	Ryan Arnst
Video Editor.....	Jose Ordoñez
House Manager.....	Megan DeGraaf
Box Office Manager.....	Tyler Johnson Grimes
Production Manager.....	Elizabeth Price
Producer.....	Tim Davis

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TRANSLATIONS BY MARI MEZA-BURGOS

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call 561-297-6124

**NNPN** National New Play Network  
Rolling World Premiere

**APRIL 8-23**

**A very special "Thank You!" to the following individuals  
and organizations whose generous support has made this  
production of Cry Old Kingdom possible!**

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Brooke Frank	Margaret Ledford	Jazz Patterson
Island City Stage	Marj O'Neill-Butler	Maggie & Gonzalo Rodriguez
Sara Grant	Theatre Lab at FAU	Edson Jean
Jordon Armstrong	Zoetic Stage	Gabrielle Barlatier
MNM Theater	Gablestage	Richardson Chery
Florida Atlantic University	Slow Burn Theatre	Inez Barlatier
Department of Theatre & Dance	Mark & Karen Davis	





Ayiti Community Trust's mission is to support and sustain development innovation in Ayiti (Haiti) in the areas of civic education, environment, and entrepreneurship.

We mobilize Haitians and friends of Ayiti to invest in Haitian-led innovation using a community foundation model backed by a permanent fund.

In March, we launched a global campaign inviting all communities to join us for the Third Annual United in Legacy in a Global Walk for Ayiti's future. Every year Haitians and friends of Ayiti come together to renew our shared commitment to building a sustainable Ayiti.





## ART INSTRUCTOR & CREATIVE CONSULTANT

Louivest is an Afro-futurist, Haitian born artist based in South Florida. His art derives from his sub-consciousness mind and solely reflects his true spirit. Every one of his pieces are made with pure intentions. He uses art to convey life messages some people may be unaware of, taking natural things to highlight spiritual truth and connecting to our natural roots. Check out his IG: **Louiv\_Art**  
*Special thanks to Louivest for displaying his art in our lobby*



This production of *Cry Old Kingdom* is dedicated to Margaret McGrath, early and ongoing supporter of NCP's mission.

**December 27, 1954 - January 27, 2023.**

# Do you know about 211?

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New City Players supports 211, a free and confidential service that helps people across North America find the local resources they need 24/7.

211 is the most comprehensive source of information about local resources and services in the country. It's powered by people: thousands of caring, local experts are available to help, 24/7. Calls to 211 are confidential and can be anonymous.

The 211 network in the United States responds to more than **20 million requests** for help every



year. Most calls, web chats, and text messages are from people looking for help meeting basic needs like housing, food, transportation, and health care. 211 can be accessed by phone or computer, at **211.org**. A toll-free call to 211 connects you to a community resource specialist in your area who can put you in touch with local organizations that provide critical services. You'll find information about:

- Supplemental food and nutrition programs
- Shelter and housing options and utilities assistance
- Emergency information and disaster relief
- Employment and education opportunities

- Services for veterans
- Health care, vaccination and health epidemic information
- Addiction prevention and rehabilitation programs
- Reentry help for ex-offenders
- Support groups for individuals with mental illnesses or special needs
- A safe, confidential path out of physical and/or emotional
- Domestic abuse

Across the U.S. and Canada, 211 has made a difference during COVID-19. Whether it's providing reliable information about the pandemic, testing or vaccination sites, or helping people stay in their homes, put food on the table and pay bills – 211 has been a lifesaver for millions over the last 18 months. The 211 network made 27.8 million connections to critical services and help last year, up nearly 100% from 2019. And call specialists have fielded a 150% increase in connections to food programs. All of that is an indicator of how vital a strong 211 is to strong, resilient communities.

**Go to [211.org](https://211.org)**

# Creative Team

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## Marlo Vashti Rodriguez

*Director*

A Florida based director and actor, Marlo holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Performance from Florida Atlantic University.

Marlo was most recently Asolo Repertory Theatre's Directing Fellow, where she Assistant Directed *Silent Sky* and *The Incident at Our Lady of Perpetual Help*. As her directorial debut, Marlo is extremely grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with some of her favorite artists at New City Players and tell a story rich with culture, history, and humanity. Some of her recent acting credits include *It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* (New City Players), *Lungs* (New City Players), *Luna Gale* (Boca Stage), *Merchants of Venice* (Grace Arts Fl), *Miami Bus Stop Stories* (Juggerknot Theatre), *The Happening* (Art Prevails Project).

# Creative Team

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## **Elizabeth Price**

*Production Manager,  
Assistant Director*

Elizabeth is a stage, screen, and voice actor, director, and producer based in South Florida. Recently, she was seen as Heidi Schreck in

City Theatre's *What the Constitution Means to Me* at the Arsht Center and as Annie Wilkes in *Misery at Empire Stage*. Directing credits include *Water by the Spoonful* and *Lungs* for New City Players, and *Straight White Men* for Thinking Cap Theatre. She has also directed for City Theatre, Theatre Lab, Pigs Do Fly, FAU, Barry University, the 24-Hour Theatre Project, the One-Minute Play Festival, Arts Radio Network, and Los Alamos Little Theatre. She received her MFA in Acting from Florida Atlantic University where she taught acting for the last nine years. She was Resident Director for New City Players last season and she now serves as their Associate Artistic Director. She's received Silver Palm Awards, a Big Easy Award, and Carbonell Award nominations for her acting and directing. Next up: producing and acting in *Little Montgomery* for New City Players.

# Creative Team

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## **Brittany Blouin**

*Stage Manager*

Brittany is a South Florida actor and stage manager.

She is a Florida Atlantic University Graduate with her

BFA in performance. She

has most recently stage

managed a production of *It's A Wonderful Life* with

New City Players, and is incredibly excited to work

with NCP again on this beautiful production of *Cry Old*

*Kingdom*.

# Creative Team

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## Harold Petion

*Assistant Stage Manager*

Harold is an FAU Theatre graduate and New City Players ensemble member. Harold has been involved in several productions. He's been cast as Cleomenes/

Shepherd in Evergreen Theatre Collective's *The Winter's Tale* by William Shakespeare, Lloyd Fowler in *The Document: On The Run* (film), and as Ben in *A Class Act* by Norman Shabel. He has served as the stage manager for New City Players' production of *Lungs* by Duncan Macmillan, Darius V. Daughtry's adaptation of *Merchants of Venice* by William Shakespeare, *Educating Asher* by Eytan Deray, and *Marty's Back In Town* by Norman Shabel. He has also directed *Carnality* by Mark Loewenstern for FAU's 2017 10-Minute Play Festival.



# Creative Team

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## Desiraé Gairala (Merritt)

*Lighting Designer*

Desiraé is a freelance lighting designer with a B.F.A. in theater technology and design from Florida Atlantic University. Her

credits include *Lungs* and *Water by the Spoonful* with New City Players, as well as *Grand Horizons* and *Ben Butler* with Boca Stage. She would like to send some love to everyone at NCP for this experience. Creating this show has reignited her love for theatre and art. She would also like to thank her husband for his love and support while she pursues her dreams, as well as her parents for encouraging her daily. I love you all.

Find out what she's up to next on Instagram:

**@desiraemerritt.LD**

# Creative Team

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## Ernesto K. Gonzalez

*Sound Designer*

Ernesto is a performer and sound designer based in South Florida, with roots in Puerto Rico. He is proud to be the sound designer for New City Players, previously

having worked on *Water by the Spoonful* and *Lungs*.

He is currently the sound engineer for the Maltz Jupiter Theatre, having worked in shows such as *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Sweet Charity*, *Oliver!*, and more.

Other sound design credits include *Borrowed* and *Nylon*. As an avid artist, he thrives to connect with his community and help them come together through the transformative nature of theatre. He wouldn't be where he is without the support of his family, his closest friends, and his incredible partner, Nathalie.

More info at [ErnestoKGonzalez.com](http://ErnestoKGonzalez.com)

# Creative Team

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## **Edverson Raymonvil**

*Costume Designer*

Edverson is a talented young fashion designer based in Miami, Florida. He developed a passion for fashion at a young age and began designing his own

clothes as a teenager. After studying fashion design at a local college, Edverson started his own fashion line, focusing on creating unique and stylish pieces that incorporate bold colors and intricate patterns. Edverson draws inspiration from the vibrant culture and energy of Miami, as well as his Haitian heritage. His designs are a fusion of classic and modern styles, with a focus on creating clothing that makes his clients feel confident and empowered.

# Creative Team

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## Ilana Jael

### *Dramaturg*

Ilana earned her MFA in Creative Nonfiction from Sarah Lawrence College and a BA in Writing and Psychology from Florida

Atlantic University's Wilkes Honors College. Her short plays and one-acts have been produced in-person and virtually in the Florida area by companies New City Players, Theatre Lab, Bob Carter's Actor's Workshop and Repertory Company, and Femuscripts, as well as by student troupes Theatre In The Raw and Alpha Psi Omega at Florida Atlantic University. She is also a current company and board member with New City Players, and recently served as dramaturg for their spring production of *Water By the Spoonful*. Additionally, she has served as lead critic and a frequent feature writer for the virtual publication South Florida Theater Magazine since the site's inception in May of 2021.





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# FREE SCREENING

APRIL 22, 1:30PM  
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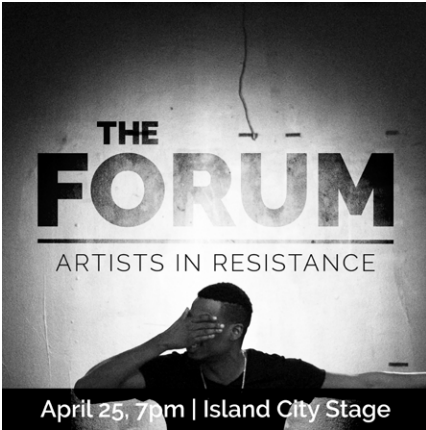
Pompano Beach  
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**pompano beacharts**

# Mark your calendar!

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Tap on any of these free community events to learn more and register!



April 25, 7pm | Island City Stage

A place for community discussion.



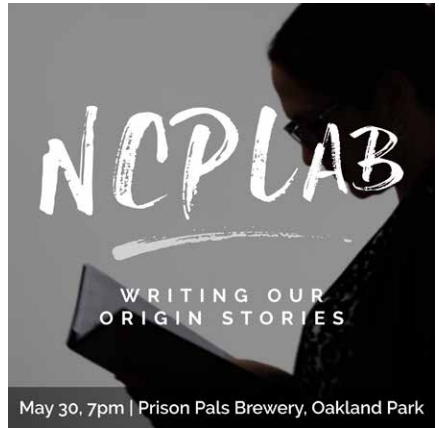
MAY 9, 7PM  
POMPANO BEACH CULTURAL CENTER

A collection of short films by Haitian filmmakers.



May 11, 6:30pm | Perry Wings

A place to tell your story or listen in.

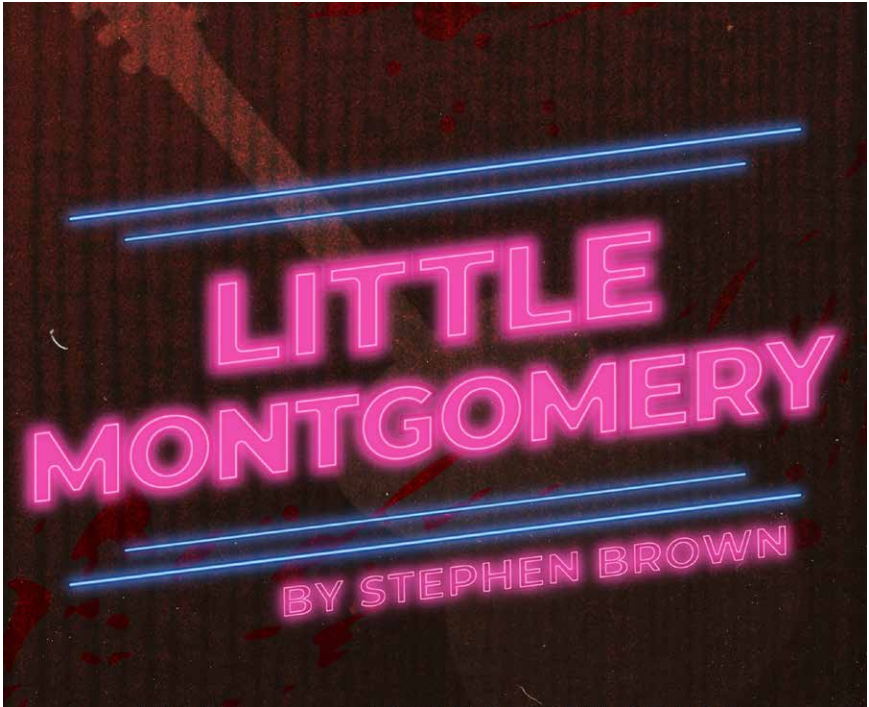


May 30, 7pm | Prison Pals Brewery, Oakland Park

A place to improve your writing with others.

# Mark your calendar!

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## **JULY 6-23 | ISLAND CITY STAGE**

Megan and Kimmy are sixteen-years-old, best friends, and currently planning to commit grand larceny against country music star Rick Montgomery at his concert tonight. As they put their plan into play, songs will be sung, secrets will be revealed, and teenage girls will find out how difficult it is to exact revenge.

[newcityplayers.org/season](http://newcityplayers.org/season)





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Marsha Brown	Fern & Barry Katz	Casey Sacco
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Anca Capota	Noah Levine	Mirhonda Studevart
Erica & Zach Dade	Carlos Londono	Luisa Suarez
David DeGraaf	Margery Lowe	Karen Tedesco
Terry Donahue	Nick Lyon	Terri Temkin
Alicia Farrington	Dayana Morales	Gale Goldstein Tucker
Michael Ferreiro	Janet Nestler	Randy Turner
Wendy Frank	David O'Connor	Seth Turnoff
Matt Stabile & Niki Fridh	Amy Pasquantonio	Ahnee & Joe Voelker
Erica Gassen	Jazz Patterson	Erin Voelker
Michael Gioia	Al Plancher	Leb Williams
Tyler & Kimmi Johnson Grimes	Laura Plyler	
	Clarice Pollack	
	Gayle Powers	

## CAMEO PLAYER (\$100-\$499)

Noel Barry	Barbara Buzzi	Kaitlyn Day
Bonnie Berg	Cheryl Bycheck	Megan DeGraaf
Mitchell Berkman	Michael Carrigan	Tommy Bledsoe & Joy D'elia
Marj O'Neill-Butler	Nelson Charlie	Julia Fraser

Jonelle Rivas Gibson	Kathe O'Donnely	Cecilia Silva
M. Chad Gordon	Alison Page	Thomas Severino
Teresa Hawkins	Elizabeth Pimentel	Jeanne Street
Richard Huitema	Laura Sacco & Chris Richardson	Carol Ann Story
Alex Joyel	Nick Richberg	Arlette Del Toro
Denise & Tony Joyel	Robin Rothman	Mercedes Del Toro
Ryan Kulkarni	Susan Rothman	Merci Del Toro
Kelly Lasley	Teresa (Margot) Rueda	Sylvia Trein
Bruno Paes Leme	Heather Sacco	Jinon Velazquez
Harold Martin	Kerry Sacco	Jean Warner
Denzel McCausland	Sean Sacco	Mark Werblood
Mike Moskal	Zulia Schooley	Nancy Winokoor
Jim & Ann Mullen	Jessica Schulte	Patty Wolfhagen
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Elizabeth Price	Bill Swain

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## **PRODUCING PLAYER (\$20,000+)**

Broward County Cultural Division

# About New City Players

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## THE COMPANY

Producing Artistic Director.....	Tim Davis
Associate Artistic Director.....	Elizabeth Price
Business Manager.....	Megan DeGraaf
Community Engagement Manager.....	Ernesto Gonzalez
Marketing Manager.....	Alex Joyel
Original Content Manager.....	Casey Sacco
Company Manager.....	Krystal Valdes
Box Office Manager.....	Tyler Johnson Grimes
Graphic Designer & Photographer.....	Ryan Arnst

## THE ENSEMBLE

Rachel Smoker Cox	Ilana Jael	Elizabeth Price*
Timothy Mark Davis	Alex Joyel	Jocelyn Richardson
Arlette Del Toro	Denzel McCausland	Marlo Vashti Rodriguez*
Caroline Dopson	Desiraé Gairala	Casey Sacco*
Michael Gioia	Abby Nigro	Krystal Millie Valdes*
Ernesto Gonzalez*	Daryl Patrice	
Tyler Johnson Grimes	Harold Petion	

\*Member of the Artistic & Programming Committee

## THE BOARD

Tim Davis, <i>President</i>	Ilana Jael
Megan DeGraaf, <i>Secretary</i>	Alex Joyel, <i>Chair</i>
Ernesto Gonzalez	

# Support NCP today!

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New City Players accounts for over 60% of its programming costs through generous giving. Your support is essential in fulfilling our vision of seeing the people in our community become more thoughtful and empathetic.

## **BECOME A FRONT ROW MEMBER**

Visit [newcityplayers.org/frontrow](https://newcityplayers.org/frontrow) to learn how you can support NCP monthly.

## **BECOME A SPONSOR**

Contact Tim Davis at [tim@newcityplayers.org](mailto:tim@newcityplayers.org) to learn more. Sponsorships start at \$500.

## **MAKE A DONATION**

Online: [newcityplayers.org/give](https://newcityplayers.org/give)

Paypal: [ncp@newcityplayers.org](mailto:ncp@newcityplayers.org)

Venmo: [@newcityplayers](https://venmo.com/newcityplayers)

## **BE AN ADVOCATE**

Forward emails, share social media posts, write your own posts on social media with pictures about your experience, tell someone about the show, or pass out an info card!

*New City Players is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.  
Your donations are fully eligible for a tax deduction.*

# *Did you know?*

New City Players is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, professional, ensemble theatre company based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

**Our mission** is to create community through transformative theatre.

**Our vision** is to help South Florida become a more empathetic and thoughtful community.

**Help us** reach our goal to raise \$10,000 by September 1 so we can continue staging transformative theatre in your community!

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TO GIVE**

**NEWCITYPLAYERS.ORG**

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